

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,253,046 to Horrall et al.

Horrall et al. teaches a fuser backup roll release mechanism for opening a nip between a fuser hot roll and a backup roll. The mechanism of Horrall et al. includes a worm gear 112 that rotates spur gears 118, 122 and associated cams 126, 128 to change a rotational position of levers 130, 132 engaged on the cams 126, 128, see Fig. 3. Outer ends of the levers 130, 132 support a respective bellcrank 138, 140 via respective springs 142, 144. The bellcranks 138, 140 bias the backup roll 34 into engagement with a hot roll 32. The cams may actuate the levers to lower the bellcranks to a lower position forming a gap between the backup roll and the hot roll. The backup roll release mechanism is actuated by a motor 44 driving a gear train 42 to rotate a shaft 110 supporting the worm gear 112, see Figs. 1 and 2.

Referring to claim 1, the Horrall et al. patent does not disclose a linkage assembly interconnecting a pivotally connected cover assembly and a nip release mechanism in a fuser assembly for operating the nip release mechanism by moving the cover assembly between closed and opened positions to alternately position a loading means in loading and unloading conditions of a pressure roll against a hot roll.

Referring to claim 13, the Horrall et al. patent does not disclose a linkage assembly connecting a pivotally connected cover assembly and an actuating means in a fuser nip release mechanism for moving the actuating means in response to closing and opening the cover assembly to alternately position a loading means in loaded and non-loaded conditions of a pressure roll against a hot roll.

Referring to claim 18, the Horrall et al. patent does not disclose a moveable component moved by movement of a cover between opened and closed positions, where movement of the moveable component moves a follower connected to a loading means for holding a pressure roll against a hot roll.

Accordingly, each of claims 1, 13 and 18 recite a linkage assembly or moveable component providing a connection between a moveable cover and an element for actuating a loading means to hold a pressure roll against a hot roll, which structure is not disclosed or suggested by the motor actuated drive train disclosed by U.S. Patent No. 6,253,046 to Horrall et al.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-20 of the present application patentably define over the cited prior art.

If the present response raises any questions or the Examiner believes that an interview would facilitate prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
STEVENS & SHOWALTER, L.L.P.

By Michael D. Folkerts
Michael D. Folkerts
Registration No. 33,348

7019 Corporate Way
Dayton, OH 45459-4238
Telephone: (937) 438-6848
Facsimile: (937) 438-2124
E-mail: mfolkerts@speakeasy.net